Washington, D.C. - Congresswoman Linda Sánchez issued the following statement today on the passing of Senator Edward M. Kennedy.

"Senator Kennedy's death moves me to great sadness but also a sense that we should celebrate a person who embodied the term "public servant". Senator Kennedy fought the good fight longer than almost any senator in our history. His accomplishments, improving the lives of working people, women, immigrants, minorities, gay and lesbians, people with disabilities and fighting for just causes like affordable health care are too many to list.

I was honored to work with Senator Kennedy on legislation to provide a living wage for working people. And, I am committed to continuing the fight he began for affordable, quality health care for all Americans with my colleague and friend, Congressman Patrick Kennedy. It is a fight that his father began over 40 years ago. My thoughts and prayers are with Vicki, Tara, Teddy Jr., Patrick and the all of the Senator's family, extended family and friends.

Senator Kennedy knew of our struggles and our hopes for a better future. A champion for all Americans will be missed."